

## FOLLOWERS - LESSON PLAN

Age	Term	Mod.	Module Theme	Module Title	Lesson Number and Title
6	1	2	WORSHIP	God forgives	20: Owning up to our sins

Use the syllabus framework to complete above. Infants: 20 minutes; Juniors: 30 minutes; Middles & Seniors: 45 minutes  
(Mod. = Module Number, Module Theme - in the heading, Module Title - uppercase in the cell, Lesson Num [NO. column] and Title)

							
Verbal V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Logical L	Spatial S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kinaesthetic K	Musical M	Intra - personal P1	Inter - personal P2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural N

Tick the appropriate box(es) above [ copy this:  ] for the modes of learning being used in this session.

**Prayer:** O God most merciful, we are sorry for all our sins, for every thought that was false or unjust or unclean, for every word spoken that should not have been spoken, and for every deed done that should not have been done. In Your great mercy, we ask You to forgive us and help us to think and speak and act according to Your will. Amen

**Starter:**

Listen carefully. Can you recognize the voice of God? Children will experiment how well they can listen our Lord's voice and know the Will of God through a game of finding flashcards that illustrate the ten commandments. They will describe what they see and state the commandment.

**Learning objectives:**

To help children understand what owning our sin, admitting our weaknesses and conscience means.

To learn the meaning of confession.

**Core Activities and Learning**

Children will be told they will be learning about owning up to our sins.

1. The teacher will help the children recall what they have learned about the sin. Even when we try to make good choices, sometimes we are tempted. We are tempted to act in ways that hurt ourselves or other people. When we turn away from God's laws, we sin. Sin hurts our friendship with God. Jesus always loves us, even if we sin. Jesus looks into our hearts. He sees that we are good. If we do something wrong and we are sorry, Jesus forgives us.

The teacher will tell children that God already knows everything about us, He knows the deepest thoughts in our hearts. God also has the power of cleansing our hearts too. He wants us to realise the depth of our sin and own up to it. Confessing the truth of our sins brings us closer to God. The teacher will explain to children that when sincere, loving hearts repent and turn away from sin and forgiveness is given, relationships grow deeper in love. The teacher will explain to children owning up to our sins opens the door to the power of God's grace. This is what God desires, too. God knows how denying sin can harden the heart and cause love to grow cold. The more we accommodate sin and we allow it to settle into our hearts and into our lives, the more it separates us from Jesus Christ, our Saviour. God gives grace and forgiveness when we truly acknowledge the sin and we admit it. Living a Christian life also means owning our sin, so it doesn't own us, admitting that we have weaknesses, because in Christ, weakness becomes strength. When we can admit to our weaknesses, we can be less afraid. And as Christians we can do that because we can turn to God's love for us, we can have confidence in God's complete acceptance of us.

2. The teacher will explain to children what owning up to our sins is: to admit that you have done something wrong and what conscience (our inner voice) is: - a voice within each of us that helps us to know what God wants us to do. It helps us know the difference between right and wrong. It helps us know the ways we have sinned. The Holy Spirit helps us to listen to and follow our conscience. Explain to children how to make an examination of conscience and tell them they can make an examination of conscience at the end of the day as part of their night prayer. The children can ask themselves some of the following questions: When I make choices, do I sometimes forget about what God wants me to do? Do I pray every day? Do I pay attention during Liturgy? Do I try to see God in others? Do I listen to my parents and teachers or do I ignore them? Am I selfish at school? Or do I share what I have with others? Do I say, "I'm sorry" to the person I have hurt and "I forgive you" to the person who has hurt me? Do I try to do my best in school? Do I thank God for the gifts and talents He has given me?

But if we confess our sins to God, He can always be trusted to forgive us our sins and take our sins away. Teaching about confession needs to be balanced by teaching about the grace and love of God, who freely forgives us each time we confess to Him. Confession helps us to recognize our need to depend on God to help us grow in our spiritual development. Confession needs to make a difference to the way we will choose to act in the future. Confessions need to be made for the right reasons: loving God, others and ourselves, rather than out of fear of punishment.

3. *Make a Spiritual First Aid Kit.* Children will choose a container such as a pencil box, or a muslin bag. Significance of items. The Bandage reminds us that *Jesus heals* the wounds of the heart. The Cotton Balls remind us that *Jesus blots* away our sins. The Tissue reminds us that *Jesus wipes* away our tears. The Antiseptic Wipes remind us that *Jesus cleanses* our hearts. The Lip Balm reminds us that *Jesus softens* our hard, dry hearts. The Holy Water reminds us that *Jesus blesses* us.

**Resources**

picture that illustrates Confession, Ten Commandments flashcards, pencil box or muslin bag, bandage, cotton balls, tissues, antiseptic wipes, lip balm, holy water

**Review:**

God loves us so that when we sin we can have confidence that his forgiveness and wisdom will put us right with Him and others.

**Follow Up:**

During the next week be honest with God about something that is troubling you and ask for his forgiveness and healing.